

globulate at apices and gonostyli not angulate apically; body pubescence white and punctures on whole body not so uniformly fine.

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TWO NEW SPECIES OF HARPACTORARIA FROM SOUTHERN INDIA (HETEROPTERA: REDUVIIDAE: HARPACTORINAE)¹

DAVID LIVINGSTONE AND G. RAVICHANDRAN²

(with two text-figures)

Two new species of the genus *Sphedanolestes* Stal, namely *Sphedanolestes nigrocephala* sp. nov. and *Sphedanolestes bicolorous* sp. nov. from Southern India have been described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Sphedanolestes*, under the division Harpactoraria, includes species with head as long as pronotum and posterior lobe of the latter longitudinally impressed. Distant (1904 and 1910) recognised 19 species from the Oriental region, mostly from northern India and Burma: *S. stigmatellus*, *S. signatus*, *S. variabilis*, *S. aterimus* and *S. fraterculus* are the five species so far known from southern India, mostly from Nilgiri Hills. At present three more species, namely *S. dives*, *S. indicus* and *S. pulchriventris* have been recorded for the first time in Southern India. Without any exception, all are alate, arboreal, and endemic to the tropical rain forests of this region. Now two more species have been added to the list of *Sphedanolestes* of this region.

1. *Sphedanolestes nigrocephala* sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

FEMALE: Length 7.5 mm; width across the abdomen 2 mm; macropterous; oblongly elongate, golden yellow; antennae, tibiae, dorsal surface of the postocular area in between and around the ocelli, clypeus, antenniferous tubercles, scape, posterior margin of the frons, eyes, dorsum of the abdomen behind the fifth segment, ventral surface of the genital segments, tibiae, tarsomeres and membrane, piceous; sternites of the fifth to seventh abdominal segments, canescent; head elongately ovate, anteocular area a little shorter than postocular area; ocelli raised, interocular sulcus deep and dark; collar short, cylindrical; first rostral segment not passing the eyes and the second joint longest, almost as long as postocular area; scape almost as long as fore femora; anterior lobe of pronotum globose, smooth, with a median longitudinal narrow fissure not passing the anterior margin of the posterior lobe; junction of both lobes deeply constricted; antero-lateral ang-

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² Division of Entomology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore - 641 046.

les with acutely pointed, obliquely directed tubercle; posterior lobe finely granulate; discal prominence moderately formed; postero lateral angles rounded; posterior margin slightly concave; scutellum broadly triangular without any trace of apical tubercle; fore and mid femora slightly incrassated, obscurely nodulose; membrane passing the abdomen, corium black apically.

In the Courtallam ecotype, the entire an-

teocular area and ocellar prominence remain black in both sexes.

This species resembles the species of *Cyd-nocoris* in its general appearance and closely resembles *Sphedanolestes trichrous* Stal, in the coloration of the head, antennae, abdomen and membrane. But it can be readily recognised from the latter by its bright golden yellow colour and conspicuous development of tubercles at the antero-lateral angles of the pronotum and non-

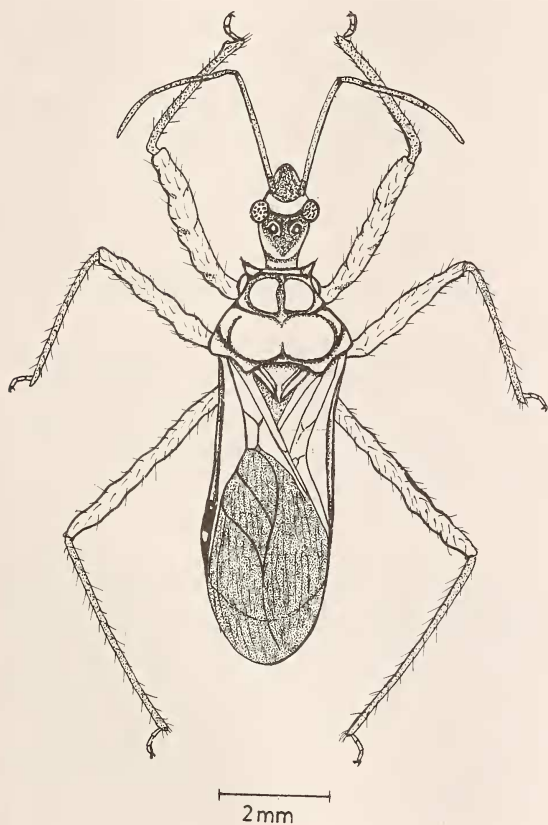


Fig. 1. *Sphedanolestis nigrocephala* sp. nov.

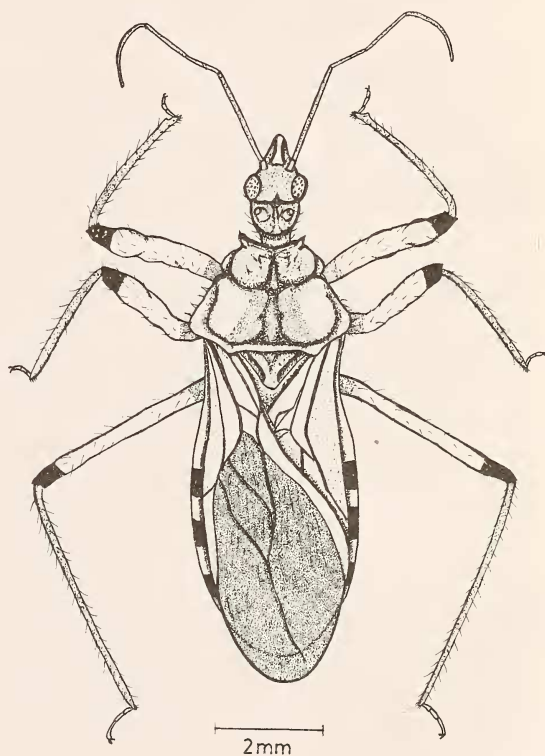


Fig. 2. *Sphedanolestis bicolorous* sp. nov.

tuberculate condition of the broadly triangular scutellum.

TYPE INFORMATION: *Holotype*: Female, serial No. 121. *Paratype* one male, both pinned specimens deposited for the present in the reduviid collection of the Division of Entomology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, South India. Both specimens are arboreal, fast fliers, collected from underneath leaves.

COLLECTION INFORMATION: Specimens were collected from tropical Rain forest area near Servalar, Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu, on 2 October 1983 at elevation 250 m above MSL, temperature 33° C and humidity 52%.

2. *Sphedanolestes bicolorous* sp. nov. (Fig. 2)

FEMALE: Length 9 mm; width across the abdomen 4 mm; macropterous; ovate; stramineous; head, eyes, antennae, scutellum tibiae, thoracic sternites, spots on connexivum piceous; fourth to last abdominal tergites black; head ovate; anteocular and postocular areas subequal, ocelli, wide apart and elevated; postocular area globose with short cylindrical ochraceous collar; scape almost as long as the fore femora; first rostral segment reaching the eyes, second segment almost passing the entire postocular area; rostrum and maxillary lobes in front of eyes castaneous brown; anterior lobe of pronotum globose, much smaller than the posterior lobe; smooth with a median longitudinal furrow, not passing its posterior limit; tubercles of the anterolateral angles short and curved backward; posterior lobe griceous, finely granulate, lateral angles moderately expanded, discal prominence moderately developed, posterior margin slightly concave; scutellum broadly triangular, apically nontuberculate; hemelytra bronzy brown, corium transparent basally, opaque apically; membrane

passing the abdomen; fore femora slightly incrassated sub-apically; castaneous brown, apically slightly constricted, black; mid and hind femora similar but not incrassated; abdomen stramineous, sternum with lateral longitudinal brown fascia; connexivum dorsally and ventrally stramineous, spotted black.

In some specimens, the anterior lobe and discal areas of the posterior lobe of the pronotum are piceous.

This species resembles the previous species *Sphedanolestes nigrocephala* in the coloration of the head, hemelytra and tibiae. But it can be readily recognised by the nature of scutellum, coloration of the pronotum, obscurely recurved tubercles of the antero-lateral angles of the pronotum and the femora being almost smooth without having any nodulose, appearance.

TYPE INFORMATION: *Holotype*: Female, serial No. 122. *Paratype* one male; both pinned specimens deposited for the present in the reduviid collection of the Division of Entomology, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, South India.

COLLECTION INFORMATION: Specimens were collected from Tropical Rain forest, Yelagire Hills, North Arcot District, Tamil Nadu on 13 September 1948 at elevation of 1000 m above MSL, temperature 23° C and humidity 70%.

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